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CREATIVE MACHINE Embroidery

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 5

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embellish a blouse with
festive sugar skulls



DEAR READERS,

It's the start of fall and I couldn't be happier. Sure, I love summer, with its great weather and longer days, but the beginning of fall is my favorite time of year. Not only does it cool off just enough to still enjoy the outdoors, but it's also time to start planning for Halloween!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Halloween is the perfect holiday for embroidered embellishments. Our brand new embroidery collection features tombstones, ghosts and skulls in a fun, not scary, way. Plus, you can find the adorable fabric we used for the wall hanging project on page 42 in a convenient kit. The wall hanging is an adorable addition to your front door for welcoming trick-or-treaters. Or you could use the same fabrics and designs to embellish readymade towels, a tablecloth or napkin set. The Cotton + Steel fabric has a luxurious hand and is easy to sew, not to mention super cute!

Another great addition to your home décor this Halloween is our Boo-tiful Burlap Pillow on page 32. Nothing says "fall" better than a plush corduroy and a touch of metallic thread! The design is free for a limited time, so be sure to download it today. And if you need tips and tricks for working with metallic thread (who doesn't), turn to page 16. A little advice is sure to help avoid thread tangles, stretching or breakage.

If you're not one to decorate for Halloween, perhaps a little harvest décor is more up your alley. Find the lovely wreath featured on the cover on page 22. The freestanding lace leaves are embroidered with coordinating organza and the wreath is finished with a burlap bow. This project makes a great gift, and it's easily changed to suit any house or door color simply by choosing organza and thread to match.

The technique spotlight in this issue is all about creating a shirt placket entirely in the hoop of your embroidery machine. We've made the daunting task of sewing a button placket so much easier by digitizing it and having the machine do (almost) all the work! Find the how-tos on page 26.

Have a Happy Halloween and enjoy the issue!

Ellen

Ellen

coming attractions

Let the jingle bells rock and get ready for the holidays! Find quick in-the-hoop gift ideas, fun ornaments, garlands, table décor and more in the Nov./Dec. issue of *CME*, on newsstands Oct. 18, 2016. Also find it online at shopsewitall.com.



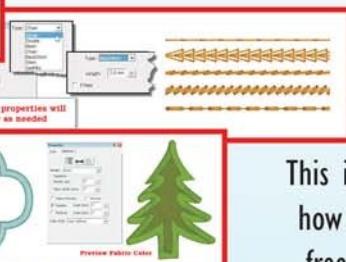


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- This Issue's Inside Look -

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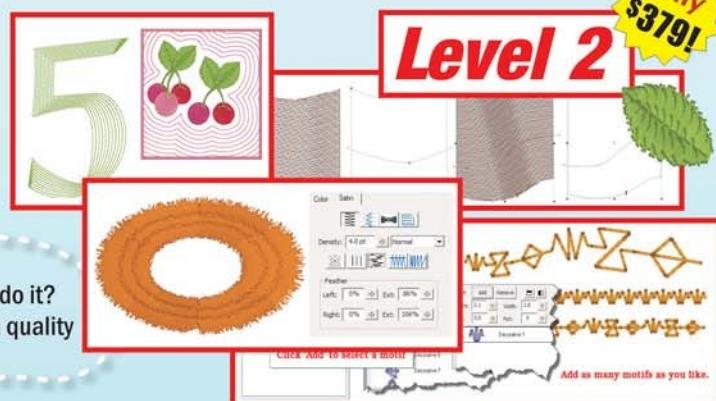
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contributors

lisa archer



(“In the Hoop: Photo Props”—page 18) is the owner and creative director of Pickle Pie Designs. She loves the challenge of creating in-the-hoop designs that reflect her personal style.

Home Base: Holly Springs, NC
Visit: pickle piedesigns.com

pamela cox



(“Q&A with Pamela Cox”—page 50) received a fashion design degree from The Boston School of Design with an emphasis on patternmaking. Purchasing her first embroidery machine in '07 added a new dimension to her education.

Home Base: Dublin, NH

ramona baird



(“Placket Perfection”—page 26) is Education Director for the American Sewing Guild. She has over 15 years of both commercial and home embroidery experience.

Home Base: Southwestern WI

eric dredxler



(“Unique Technique: Thread Painting”—page 36) has over 33 years of experience in the sewing industry with a wide spectrum of expertise. He is widely sought after to teach in a variety of settings, including consumer shows, seminars, guild programs, PBS sewing shows and Sulky online courses.

kim saba



(“Circle of Leaf”—page 22) holds a degree in fashion design from the Fashion Institute of Technology. She loves to sew, play with her two dogs and collect everything vintage.

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kate van fleet



(“Boo-tiful Burlap Pillow”—page 32) has been sewing for more than 40 years. She’s the former owner of Kreations by Kate, a business supplying handmade pillows to nine stores in five states.

Home Base: Lakewood, CO

katrina walker



(“Sugar Skull Chic”—page 46) specializes in working with silk and wool. She enjoys designing projects for home sewists and playing with her flock of sheep.

Home Base: Spokane, WA
Visit: katrinawalker.com



Learn More

about the experts and designers featured in this issue at cmemag.com.



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tips & tricks

PEANUT PERFECTION

When using metallic threads, place a packing peanut at the beginning of the threading on your machine to straighten and avoid curls.

Lara T., Facebook




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for techniques and
tricks to further
your embroidery.



CLIP IT RIGHT

To keep your machine cords from tangling, unhook the metal part of a binder clip and slip in the machine cords. Reattach the metal and clip to the edge of your sewing table.

Kristen G., Facebook

CONE KEEPER

Place a large cone of thread into a reusable cup that features a straw hole in the lid to keep the cone from moving. Then simply thread the cone through the straw hole and onto the machine.

Austin H., Facebook



BRUSHING UP

Use a new baby bottle brush to pick up pesky threads from carpet.

Kelly D., Facebook



HANG IT UP

Decorate a slab of wood and hammer finishing nails a quarter of the way in for a fun and organized way to display your thread.

Meg G., email

Send your tips and tricks

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post them on our Facebook
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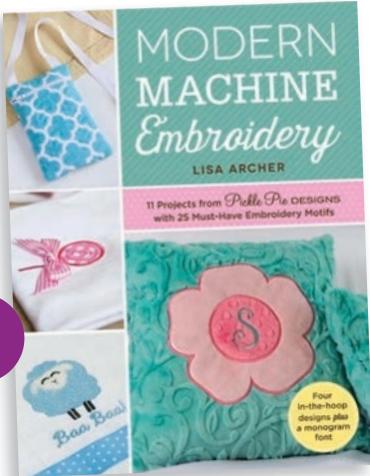


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must haves

the latest & greatest tools & designs



1

1. Make sure to check out your favorite CME In-the-Hoop columnist's new book, ***Modern Machine Embroidery: 10 Projects from Pickle Pie with 25 Must-Have Embroidery Downloads***. Lisa Archer will take you through each project step-by-step, with instructions that will help you achieve a professional look. Available mid-September. (**\$29.99, shopswitall.com**)

2. Create a darling set of **12 Woodland Creatures**.

This collection includes a hedgehog, fox, skunk, bunny, deer, bear, owl, squirrel, raccoon, bird, mushroom and an acorn. Make the designs into felt appliqués or ITH mini stuffed animals. (**\$19.99/ collection, etsy.com/shop/goldenneedledesigns**)

3. Add some fun and pizazz to your embroidery machine with **Urban Elementz Tattoo Elementz**. With more than 20 designs to choose from, you are sure to find a design that fits your machine's personality. Unlike real tattoos, you can remove them with ease whenever you wish. (**\$21.95, urbanelementz.com**)

2



3



Check out the CME blog on Oct. 10th for a giveaway of the Tapestry Tattoo Elementz pack.

CME Exclusive
Collection
Free design for
a limited time!

4



5



6



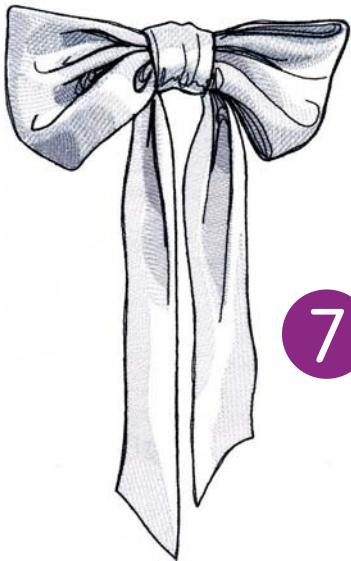
4. Celebrate the spirit and honor Día de los Muertos with **CME's Halloween Scene collection**. This collection is a fun and colorful way to celebrate life; see the Halloween Scene kit project on page 42. (**\$3.99/design, \$19.99/collection, shopsewitall.com**)

5. Be the **perfect mummy** this Halloween with this ITH mask design. The design download comes in two sizes, one for adults and one for children. So wrap up your family and become a whole troop of mummies. (**\$4, etsy.com/shop/HappilyAfterDesigns**)

6. The **DreamCreator XE VM5100** combines quilting, sewing and embroidery all in one affordable machine. This dream machine features 531 built-in stitches (additional 30 included on a separate CD), 14 buttonhole styles, 5 sewing fonts, 318 built-in embroidery designs, 13 bobbinwork designs, 14 embroidery fonts, 140 frame pattern combinations and 3 Japanese embroidery fonts. You will be able to create whatever your heart desires with all of the amazing features. (**\$6,999.95, brother-usa.com**)

must haves

the latest & greatest tools & designs



7



8



7. Everything is better with a bow.

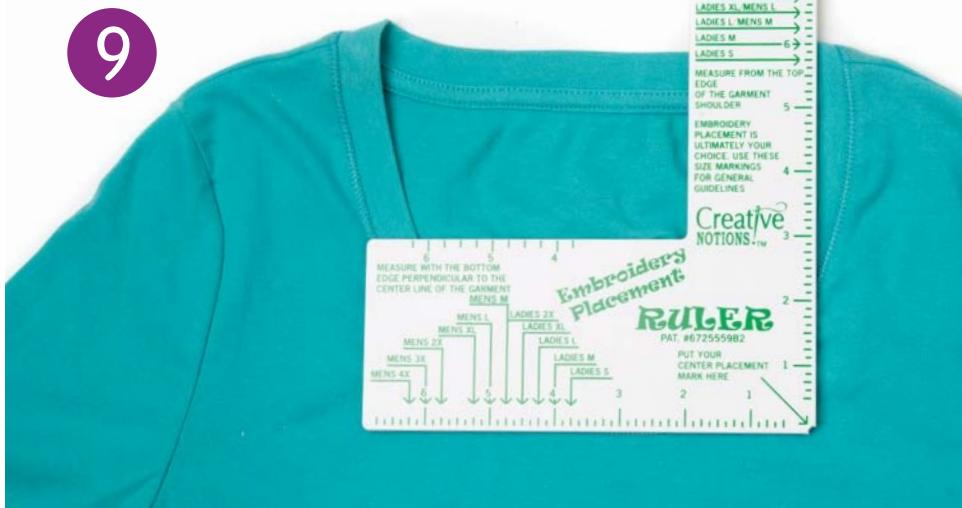
Add this charming **Ribbon Bow** from Urban Threads to any basic top, skirt or purse. The design features soft lines and shading to give the illusion of an actual bow. (**\$3-\$7, urbanthreads.com**)

8. Make the perfect Halloween treat for the little monster in your life.

The Zip it Monsters pattern by Eazy Peazy Quilts gives you all the fun in creating a unique design. Add a clasp to your monster so your little one can take it along with them anywhere. (**\$9, eazypeazyquilts.com**)

9. Get the perfect placement on shirts with the Embroidery Placement

Ruler by Creative Notions. Leave the guesswork behind and save some time. The ruler features pre-marked industry standard embroidery placement markers for adult sizes small to 4XL. (**\$18.99, shopsewitall.com**)



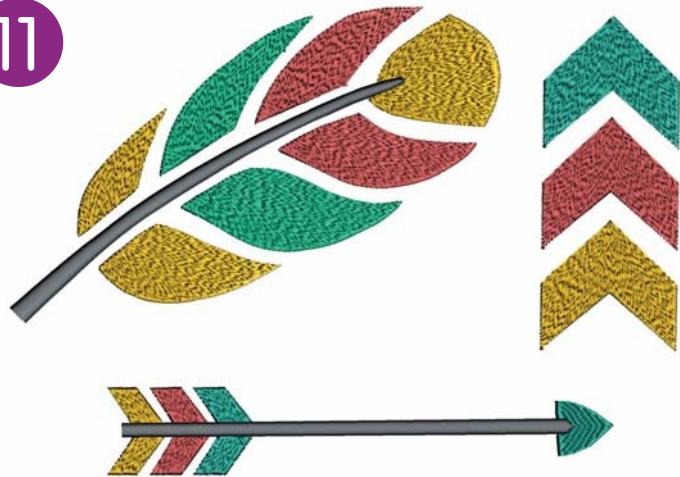


10

10. Keep your embroidery accessories close by while working on your machine with an adorable

Porcupine Sewing Caddy from Smart Needle, featuring a large suction cup that allows the caddy to stick to your machine. The porcupine is made of high quality rubber that you can use as a pin-cushion and has six bobbin compartments and a small storage slot for embroidery scissors. (**\$13.99, smartneedle.com**)

11



11. Feathers, chevrons and arrows, oh my! Imagine all the fun you can have by adding the **Tribal Aztec designs** to any home décor project or even a denim jacket. This bundle of the designs includes three sizes of each design, nine in total. Use the discount code CME20 at etsy.com/shop/jazziest now through Oct. 31, 2016, for 20% off your purchase. (**\$6, etsy.com/shop/jazziest**)

12



13

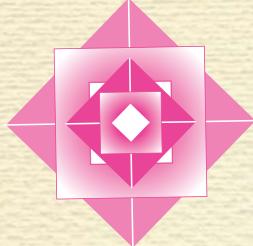


12. Get ready for autumn with **Patsy Aiken Design's Fall Scarecrow Embroidery** design. This festive design will add to your décor, perfect on a tablecloth, napkins and more. (**\$4.95, patsy-aiken-designs.myshopify.com**)

13. Organize your vast number of thread spools in the **Super Satchel Thread Organizer**. The acid-free plastic case has two easily removable thread trays featuring a snap-closure with 108 spindles that hold a variety of spool sizes. (**\$27.99, shopsewitall.com**)

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our 15th anniversary with 15 tips
for machine embroidery success.



15 TOP TIPS: *Metallic Threads*

Metallic threads can make any embroidery design shine. To efficiently use metallic threads on an embroidery machine and avoid breakage, follow these special techniques for both the thread and the machine.

1 Look for uniformly wound spools or cones. A lack of uniformity can indicate damage to the thread and that uneven tension was placed on the thread during the winding process.

2 Needles will wear easily with metallic thread. When starting a new project, be sure to use a new needle, and replace the needle after four hours of embroidery time.

3 Before sewing with metallic thread, put the thread in the freezer for a couple of hours to prevent it from breaking **(A)**.

4 Gold embroidery needles are coated with titanium nitride, which helps prevent needle wear when embroidering designs with high stitch counts. The needle has a slightly rounded point to easily penetrate most fabrics and an enlarged eye that accommodates metallic threads.

5 Metallic thread spools are usually wound in a straight-wind pattern. This type of spool works best when positioned verti-

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Thread Tutorials eBook**
at cmemag.com to learn
everything you need to
know about machine
embroidery threads.

cally on the embroidery machine in a manner that will allow the spool to rotate as the thread unwinds to avoid thread spirals and twists.

6 Most machines require tension adjustments for metallic thread. For best results, lower the top tension to help the stitch look formed and defined. It will also help prevent the bobbin thread from showing on top.

7 A 90/14 metallic needle is preferred for the majority of metallic threads. The larger needle size will help penetrate the fabric, making way for the thread to be laid smoothly on top. The metallic needle also features a special scarf to prevent skipped stitches and a widened groove to avoid thread breakage (**B**).

8 Stabilizers with adhesive backing and spray adhesives should only be used with metallic threads if absolutely necessary. The adhesive may result in deposit build-ups in the eye of the needle, causing friction and needle breakage.

9 Excessive stabilization of the fabric applies greater friction to the needle, increases thread breaks and can produce stiff embroidery.

10 Short compact stitches can cause thread breakage and tension problems. Consider enlarging the design or embroidering at a slower speed to allow the thread to smoothly stitch on the fabric.

11 Long stitches can result in increased tension on the thread because of the dramatic movement of the sewing field. Consider reducing the design size or embroidering at a slower machine speed.

12 Excessive thread layers can increase the density of the fabric and can often cause metallic threads to break. For best results, embroider with metallic threads in areas of a design that do not have excess layers of thread.

13 Be sure to embroider letters no smaller than $\frac{1}{4}$ " if using metallic thread. The compact stitches of small lettering can cause thread breaks.

14 Projects embellished with metallic threads require special attention to maintain their beautiful appearance. Be sure your dry-cleaner uses standard petroleum benzene, perchlorethylene or trichloroethylene chemicals to protect the threads.

15 Hot water and ironing have been proven to significantly deteriorate the luster and composition of metallic threads. If laundering, wash in warm water with a non-abrasive detergent to prevent dimming thread color. **E**

SOURCE

Schmetz Needles provided the Metallic and Metallic Twin Needle Pack; schmetzneedles.com

A



B



\$5.79



\$5.79

PHOTO PROPS

by Lisa Archer

Create a sweet set of photo props great for photo booths, selfie fun or a perfect party favor.



Download the free ITH Photo Props Lips from cmemag.com/freebies until Oct. 31, 2016.

Find the Lips design, and the Mustache design, at shopsewitall.com after the expiration date.

MADE SIMPLY WITH FELT and lollipop sticks, these in-the-hoop projects couldn't be any faster, and they're so simple, you can get the kids involved in making them. Change out the lollipop sticks for fun themed pencils and give them as class gifts. A heavyweight wool-blend felt works best for this project, but craft store felt sold by the sheet is a suitable less expensive alternative.

MATERIALS

- + Two 2½" x 5" rectangles of red felt
- + Tear-away stabilizer
- + Embroidery thread
- + Long lollipop sticks
- + Craft glue
- + Embroidery tape (See "Sources.")
- + 4x4 or larger hoop

PREPARE

- Load the Photo Props Lips embroidery design onto the machine. Hoop a

piece of tear-away stabilizer, and then place the hoop onto the machine.

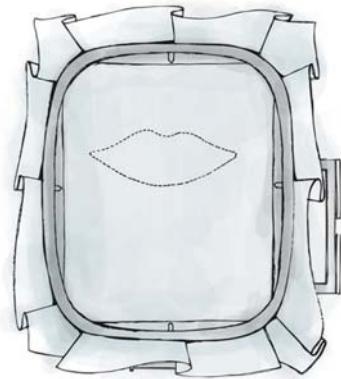
EMBROIDER

- Embroider the first step to create a placement line directly on the stabilizer **(A)**.
- Stack both pieces of felt on top of each other and place them over the placement line, making sure the felt covers the stitched line. Tape in place **(B)**.
- Embroider the second step to tack down the felt and complete.
- Remove the project from the hoop and tear away the excess stabilizer from the back.
- Trim around the project, leaving a small seam allowance.
- Turn the project over to the back and determine the desired placement of the lollipop stick. Cut a small horizontal line through only the back felt layer using sharp scissors, being careful not to cut through the front layer **(C)**.

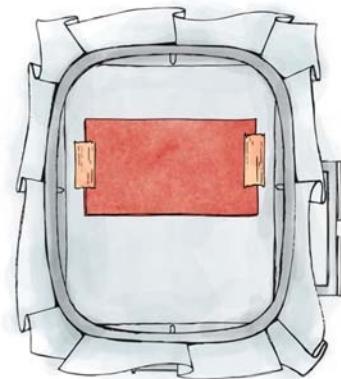
WATCH IT!

See Lisa create this project at cmemag.com/freebies.

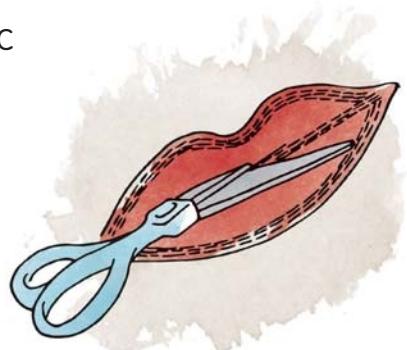
A



B



C

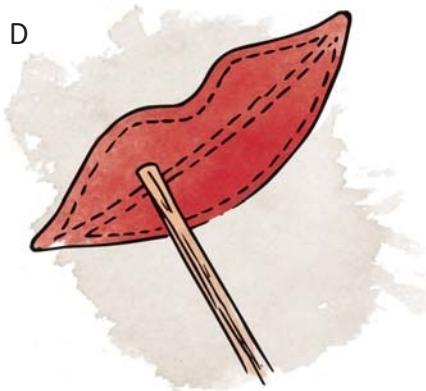


Tip

Use a large hoop to create several props in the same hooping to save time.



D



- Place a small amount of glue on the top of the lollipop stick, and then insert it into the cut line on the felt. Press the felt down **(D)**. Allow the glue to dry before using. Repeat the same basic steps to construct the mustache. **E**

DESIGN

Photo Props: Download the In The Hoop Photo Props Lips free from cmemag.com/freebies until Oct. 31, 2016. Find the Lips design, and the Mustache design, after the expiration date at shopsewitall.com.

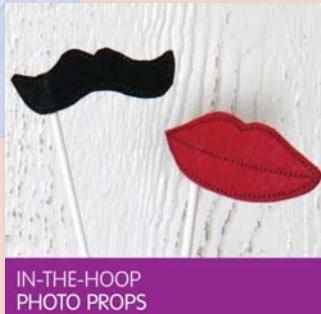
SOURCE

Shop Sew it All carries Embroidery Perfection Tape: shopsewitall.com.

WATCH & LEARN!

Watch as Lisa walks you through six exclusive in-the-hoop projects, including the Photo Props project, at cmemag.com/freebies.

Bonus: Find Lisa's beginner machine embroidery videos, *Machine Embroidery for the Absolute Beginner* and *Machine Embroidery Basics*, at shopsewitall.com, brought to you by Sulky of America.



IN-THE-HOOP
PHOTO PROPS



IN-THE-HOOP
THUMB DRIVE



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FOR THE ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

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Circle of Leaf

BY KIM SABA

Use freestanding heirloom appliqué leaves to create a perfect wreath to adorn any door this autumn.

Tip

Choose contrasting thread colors within the autumn color scheme to make the details on your leaves pop.

MATERIALS

- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard each of cream, tan, brown & light green synthetic organza
- Fabric-like water-soluble stabilizer
- 40-wt. rayon embroidery thread
- 12"-diameter chipboard wreath (See "Source.")
- 59" length of 1½"-wide wired burlap ribbon
- One spool (12') of 1½"-wide burlap ribbon
- Soldering iron or wood-burning tool
- Hot glue gun
- Fabric glue
- Floral wire
- Six heirloom appliquéd leaf embroidery designs (approximately 3½" x 3¾"; see "Designs.")

EMBROIDER

- Load the appliquéd leaf designs onto the embroidery machine.
- Select the first leaf design. Copy the design as many times as will fit your largest hoop size to a maximum of six leaves, leaving approximately ¼" between each design.
- Hoop one layer of water-soluble stabilizer between two organza layers that match the leaf design color.
- Embroider the designs.
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Use sharp, short-bladed scissors to trim away the excess stabilizer and organza close to the perimeter.

- Melt away the excess organza fibers along the design perimeter using a soldering iron.
- If needed, repeat to embroider more designs until you have a total of six leaves.
- Repeat to embroider each of the remaining five leaf designs, matching the organza color to the leaf color.
- Remove the stabilizer following the manufacturer's instructions. Place on a towel to dry.

CONSTRUCT

- Wrap the chipboard wreath with burlap ribbon, slightly overlapping the edges. Secure the ribbon beginning and end with hot glue on the wreath wrong side.
- Apply fabric glue to one leaf stem wrong side, beginning from the stem lower edge and ending ½" above the leaf lower edge (A).
- Slide the leaf stem into one wreath burlap-ribbon edge with the right side up and the leaf tip pointing slightly toward the wreath inner edge (B).
- Repeat to apply glue to a different type of leaf. Slide the leaf stem into the wreath at the burlap-ribbon edge below the first leaf with the leaf tip pointing slightly toward the wreath outer edge (C).
- Repeat to layer the remaining leaves into the wreath ribbon, alternating leaf types as desired to fill the entire wreath.
- From the wired burlap ribbon, cut a 32" length for the bow base, 15" length for the bow layer, 9½" for the hanger and 2½" length for the bow tie.

A

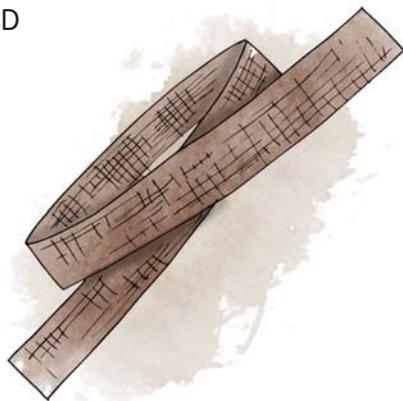
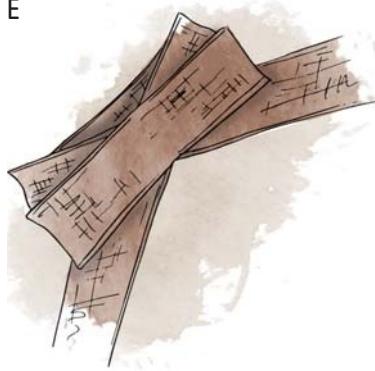
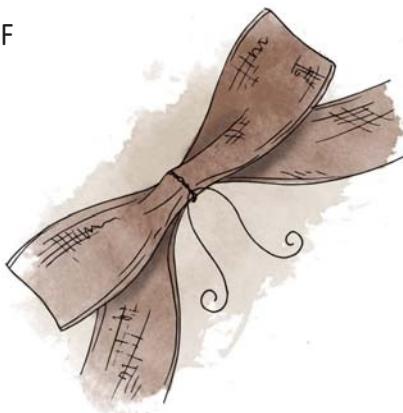


B



C



D**E****F**

- Fold the bow base in half widthwise; pin-mark the center. Measure 4" to either side of the center; pin-mark. Fold the bow tails at the 4" mark, crossing over the ends at the center mark (**D**).
- Fold the bow layer to overlap the short ends 1"; pin. Designate as the bow-base wrong side. Position the bow layer right side up over the bow base, aligning the centerlines (**E**).
- Gather the bow centers with your fingers; secure with floral wire (**F**).
- Fold the bow tie in half lengthwise; finger-press. Wrap the bow tie around the bow center to cover the floral wire, overlapping the short ends on the bow wrong side. Secure with hot glue. Clip the hanging ends of the bow into a V shape or on the diagonal.
- Center the bow right side up over the wreath upper edge; secure with hot glue.
- Fold the hanger in half lengthwise; finger-press. Position the hanger on the wreath upper-edge wrong side, centering the hanger center behind the bow; secure the ends with hot glue. **E**

DESIGNS

Leaf appliqués: Embroidery Library, Autumn Leaves (Heirloom Appliqué)—Small; emblibrary.com

SOURCE

Hobby Lobby carries 12" Chipboard Icon Wreath; hobbylobby.com.

Get ready for Halloween!

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Boo Bones Alphabet



ITH Little Monsters Puzzle Set



Bones Alphabet



Halloween Scene Wall Hanging Kit



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Placket Perfection

BY RAMONA BAIRD

Use your embroidery software to digitize and construct a shirt neckline placket in the hoop. The results are precise, creating a professional-looking placket in a few easy steps.



New Look 6027
(modified)

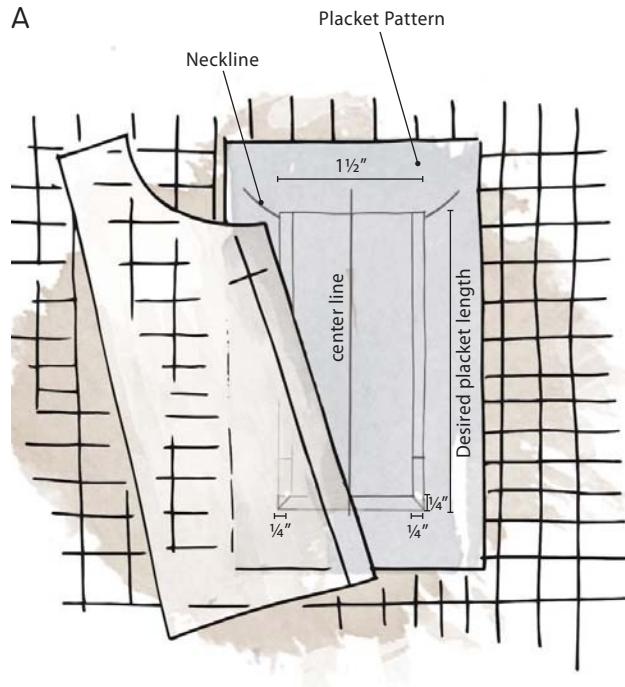
MATERIALS

- Basic shirt pattern with plain center front and neckline (such as New Look 6027)
- Fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- Buttons (number & size determined by placket dimensions)
- Fusible lightweight knit interfacing
- Fabric-like water-soluble stabilizer
- Matching embroidery thread
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Pattern or tracing paper
- Embroidery software with basic digitizing capabilities
- Double-sided basting tape (optional)

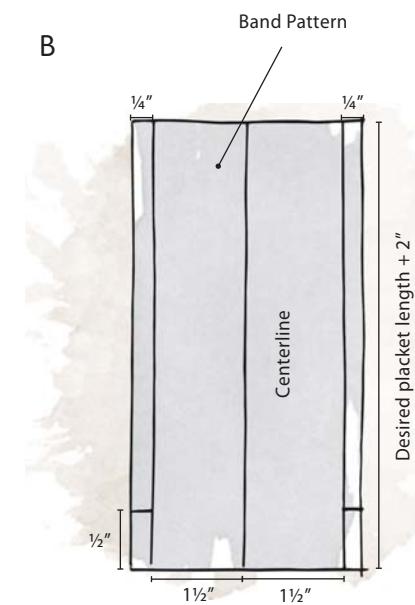
PREPARE

Note: The placket can be made to any width, but 1½" is the standard. Select ½"- or ⅜"-diameter buttons. If creating a narrower or wider placket, adjust the button size, spacing and length accordingly.

- Position the shirt front pattern piece right side up on a flat work surface. Position a piece of pattern or tracing paper over the pattern. Trace the neckline and center-front line. Measure from the neckline to the desired placket length, making sure the length doesn't exceed the hoop dimensions; mark.
- Draw a vertical line ¾" from and parallel to either side of the center-front line. The ¾" measurement is half the width of the 1½" finished band.

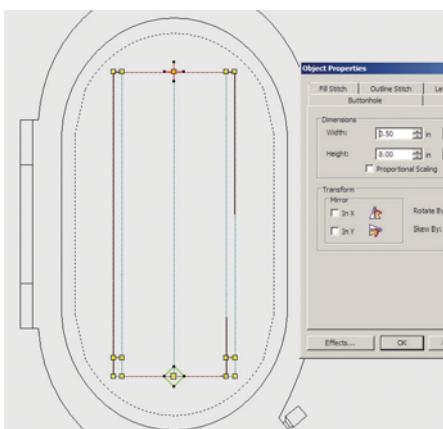


- Add a ¼" seam allowance to the inside of each long edge. Add a ¼" seam allowance above the lower edge. Draw diagonal lines at each lower corner from the seam allowance line to the outer edge (A).
- Scan the placket pattern into your embroidery software.
- Position a piece of pattern or tracing paper on a flat surface. Draw a vertical line on the paper center according to the placket length plus 2"; designate as the centerline. Draw two vertical lines 1½" from and parallel to either side of the centerline. Add ¼" seam allowances to each long edge. Draw lines perpendicular to the centerline at each end to make a rectangle. Measure ½" above the lower edge; mark only in the seam allowances. Designate as the band pattern (B).

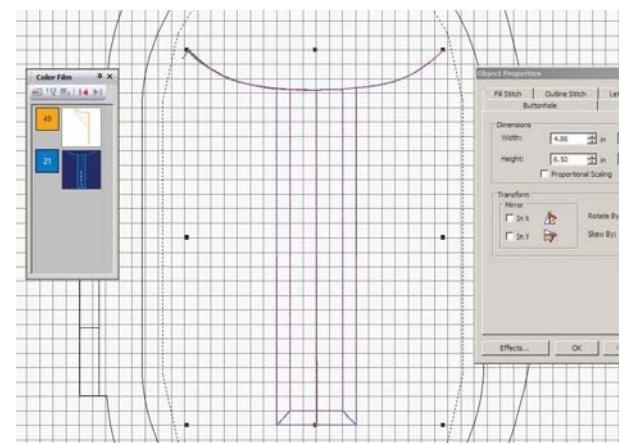


- To check the patterns for accuracy, cut out the band pattern and fold in each long edge at the seam allowance line. Fold in half along the centerline. Position the band pattern over the placket pattern. The band pattern width should match the placket outer lines.
- Unfold the band pattern. Scan into the embroidery software, set as the background and set the grid to $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Note that software measuring differs slightly. Even though the pattern lines were accurately drawn and scanned at 100%, there may still be variation between the pattern and grids in the software work area. Use the pattern as a guide, but use the grids for accuracy to develop the digitized files. Turn on the snap-to-grid software feature, if available, to create straight lines.
- Set the stitch length to 3.5mm and use the open object tool to trace the band pattern and seam allowances. Make sure the sections to each side of the centerline measure six $\frac{1}{4}$ " squares to equal $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Use the object properties tool to double-check that the overall length and width are accurate (C). Save the file as "Placket Band."
- Open a new software page and import the placket pattern as the background. Set a 3.0mm stitch length. Draw a continuous line from the right neckline and along center front to create a placement line.
- Select a different line color and a 1.5mm stitch length. Draw one continuous stitching line from the upper center-front line, along the center-
- front line to the lower edge, and then around the remaining lines, including the diagonal corner lines (D).
- Check the grid at the lower edge to confirm that the distance between the outer lines measures six $\frac{1}{4}$ " squares (or $1\frac{1}{2}$ "). Save the file as "Placket Front."
- Open a new software page. Select a 3.0mm stitch length. Draw a $1\frac{1}{2}$ "x the placket length rectangle. Draw a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-long horizontal line $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the lower edge outside the left long edge. Designate as the band placement line.
- Select a different line color and a 2.5mm stitch length. Draw a vertical line 2mm inside and parallel to the left long edge from the band placement line to the rectangle upper edge.

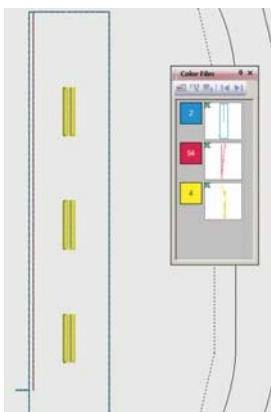
C



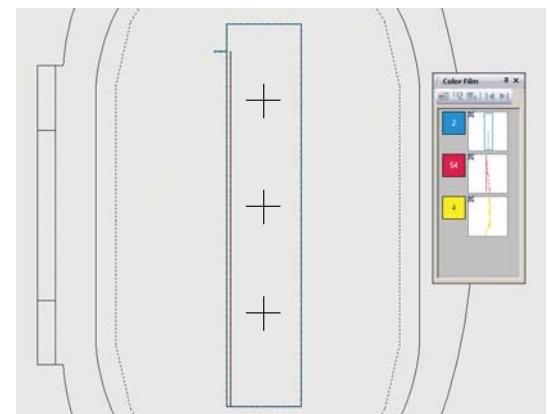
D



E



F



- Select a third color and add the number of vertical buttonholes needed along the rectangle center. Place the lower buttonhole approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " above the rectangle lower edge and the upper buttonhole $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " below the rectangle upper edge. Space the buttonholes evenly along the rectangle (**E**). Save the file as "Band Right Front." Note: If the embroidery software doesn't have buttonholes, create them in the software or construct the buttonholes after embroidery.
- Create a copy of the "Band Right Front" file and save it as "Band Left Front." Select all of the design and flip it vertically, placing the band placement line at the top left of the work area. Create a crosshair at each buttonhole center to designate the button placement. Select only the buttonholes, and then delete them (**F**). Save the changes.
- Load all of the design files onto the machine. Test-stitch the entire placket construction on scrap fabric similar to the type and weight of the finished project fabric. Make any necessary edits to the final design files, especially if the fabric is thicker or thinner to allow for turn of cloth.
- Cut the shirt front from the fabric. Staystitch the necklines.
- From the fabric and interfacing, cut two rectangles 2" larger than the band pattern dimensions. Fuse the interfacing to the fabric band wrong sides, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Tip

If desired, remove any basting or foldline stitching lines so they're not visible on the finished garment right side.

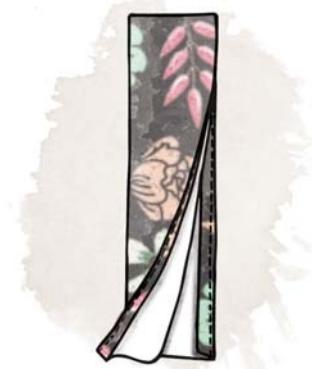
EMBROIDER

- Load the Placket Band design onto the machine. Hoop a piece of water-soluble stabilizer. Center one band rectangle right side up over the stabilizer, securing with temporary spray adhesive. Embroider the design (**G**).
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Trim the excess stabilizer and fabric from the design. Fold the band in half lengthwise along the center stitching line with wrong sides together; press. Fold each long edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side along the stitching line; press (**H**). Make sure the folded edges perfectly align.
- Repeat to construct the remaining band.
- Fold the shirt front in half along the center front with right sides together; press.
- Hoop a piece of water-soluble stabilizer. Load the Placket Front design onto the machine. Embroider the first color.
- Remove the hoop from the machine, but don't remove the stabilizer from the hoop. Spray the stabilizer with temporary adhesive. Position the shirt front over the placement stitching, aligning the necklines and center-front lines (**I**).
- Unfold the front, smoothing the fabric over the stabilizer; finger-press to secure. Embroider the second color, making sure the center-front stitching line aligns exactly with the shirt center-front foldline. Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop.
- Carefully cut along the inner stitching lines and cut along each corner stitching line up to, but not through, the outer stitching line (**J**).
- Hoop a piece of water-soluble stabilizer. Load the Band Right Front design

G



H

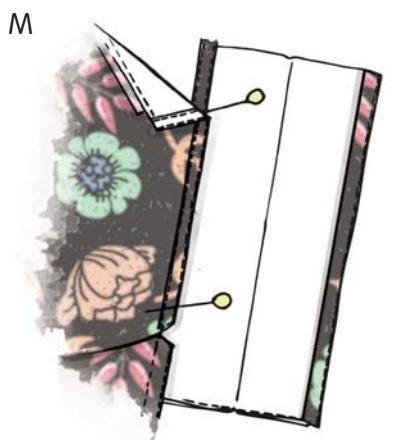
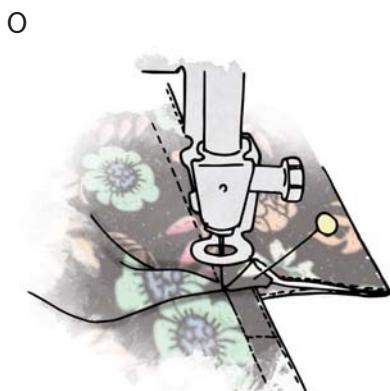
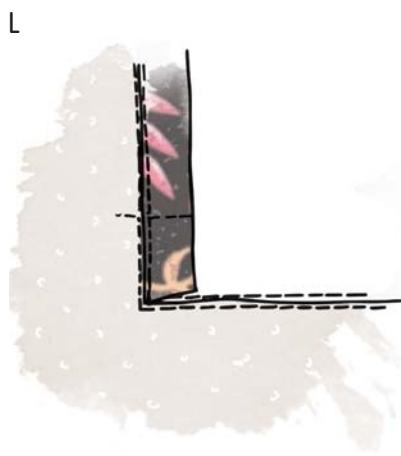


I



J





onto the machine. Embroider the first color. Spray the stabilizer with temporary adhesive. Position one band over the stitching line, matching the placement lines and the band center foldline with the right stitching line; finger-press to secure (**K**).

- Unfold the band, smoothing the fabric over the stabilizer and making sure the band and stabilizer band placement lines align; finger-press to secure (**L**).
- Position the shirt front right side up over the band, aligning the shirt-placket left corner over the left-band folded edge at the band placement line and making sure the shirt-placket raw edge aligns with the band raw edge. If necessary, use basting tape to secure. Pivot the excess shirt down towards the hoop lower edge to prevent it from getting caught in the stitching (**M**).
- Fold the band in half lengthwise with wrong sides together along the original foldline, extending the long folded edge just beyond the shirt-placket stitching line (**N**).
- Advance the machine to the first stitch of the second color, and then lower the needle into the fabric. Check to make sure that the needle will catch the shirt-placket corner, just inside the band (**O**). If desired, use basting tape to secure.
- Reduce the machine speed to the lowest setting or engage the foot pedal for more control. Embroider the second color, using a sewing stiletto to hold the fabric in placing during stitching.
- Embroider the third color to create the buttonholes (**P**).
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Trim away the excess stabilizer from the band.
- Load the Band Left Front design onto the machine. Hoop a piece of water-

soluble stabilizer. Embroider the first color. Spray the stabilizer with temporary adhesive. Position the remaining band over the stitching line, matching the placement lines and the band center foldline with the right stitching line. Unfold the band, smoothing the fabric over the stabilizer and making sure the band and stabilizer-band placement lines align; finger-press to secure. Position the shirt front right side up over the band with the neckline toward the hoop lower edge, aligning the shirt-placket right corner over the left-band folded edge at the band placement line and making sure the shirt-placket raw edge aligns with the band raw edge. If necessary, use basting tape to secure.

- Pivot the excess shirt up toward the hoop upper edge to prevent it from getting caught in the stitching.
- Fold the band in half lengthwise with wrong sides together along the original foldline, extending the long folded edge just beyond the shirt-placket stitching line. Advance the machine to the first stitch of the second color, and then lower the needle into the fabric.
- Check to make sure that the needle will catch the shirt-placket corner, just inside the band. If desired, use basting tape to secure. Embroider the second color.



- Embroider the third color to create the button placement marks (**Q**).
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Trim away the excess stabilizer from the band.
- Position the shirt front right side up on a flat work surface. Position the right front band over the left front band; pin. Tuck the band ends and small placket tab inside the placket lower-edge opening (**R**).
- Select a 2mm stitch length. Fold the shirt to expose the tab. Stitch across the tab upper edge along the previous stitching line. Stitch again along

- the tab lower edge along the previous stitching line. Trim away the excess fabric below the second stitching line (**S**).
- If desired, topstitch a second stitching line on the placket $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the lower edge.
- Stitch the buttons on the lower placket by hand or machine at the placement stitching marks.
- Trim the placket upper edge even with the neckline.
- Finish constructing the shirt following the pattern guidesheet. Carefully cut open the buttonholes. **C**

Q



R



S





Boo-tiful Burlap Pillow

BY KATE VAN FLEET

Stitch a fun, autumn-inspired pillow that will bring a touch of Halloween to your home.



Download the Boo embroidery design for free from sandyjenkins.com using the code BOOTREAT until Oct. 30, 2016.



MATERIALS

- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of natural canvas
- Tear-away stabilizer
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ yards of orange pinwale corduroy
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of $1\frac{1}{2}$ -wide burlap ribbon
- 16" pillow form
- Thread: all-purpose & embroidery
- Removable fabric marker (See "Source.")
- Halloween-themed embroidery design (approximately 8" square; see "Design.")

Note: The original design uses green thread for the "Boo" font; the featured sample uses coordinating orange thread.

PREPARE

- Download the Boo embroidery design from sandyjenkins.com.
- From the natural canvas, cut a 17" square. Using a removable fabric marker, mark the horizontal and vertical center of the square.
- From the orange corduroy, cut a 17" square and eight 3"x22" strips.

EMBROIDER

- Load the design into the embroidery machine.
- Hoop the natural canvas square with tear-away stabilizer, centering the placement marks in the hoop and smoothing any wrinkles.
- Embroider the design on the center of the 17" square canvas pillow top.

CONSTRUCT

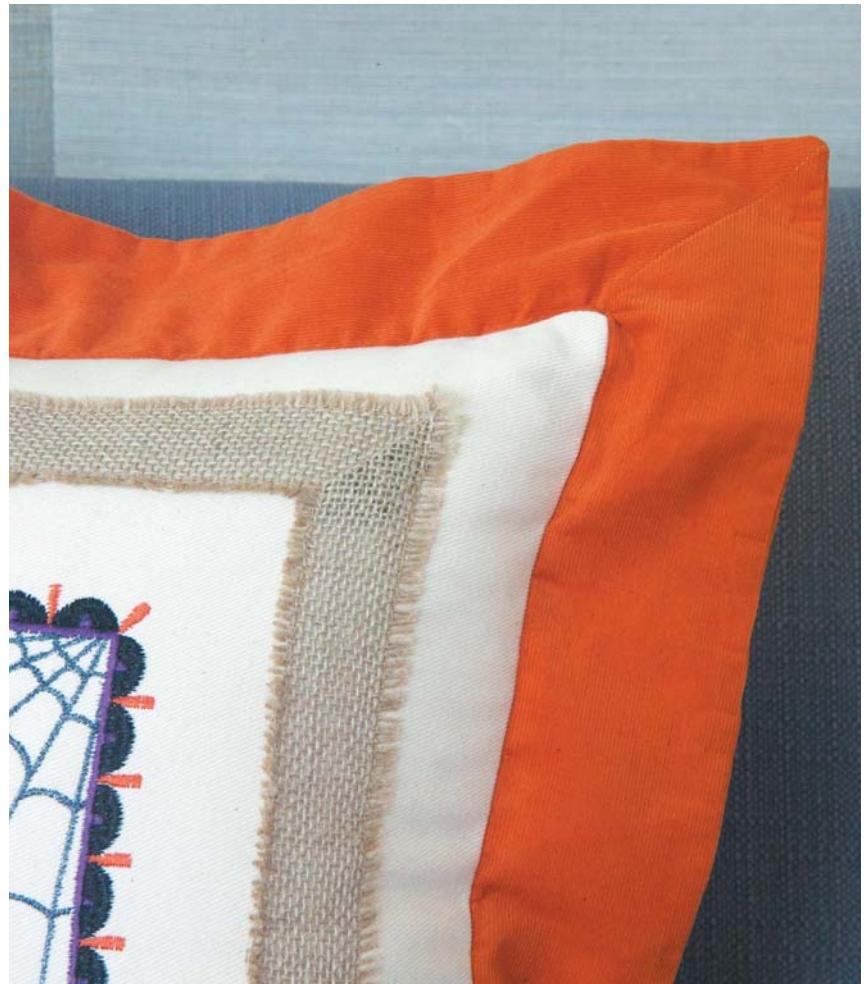
Use $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

- Measure and mark 2" in from the edge on all sides of the pillow top. Pin the burlap ribbon to the inside of the marked line, mitering each corner. Topstitch the ribbon in place along both long edges.
- Center four corduroy strips wrong side up on the pillow-top edges so 3" of each strip extends beyond each pillow-top edge; pin. Stitch the strips to the pillow top, beginning and ending $\frac{1}{2}$ " from each inner corner.

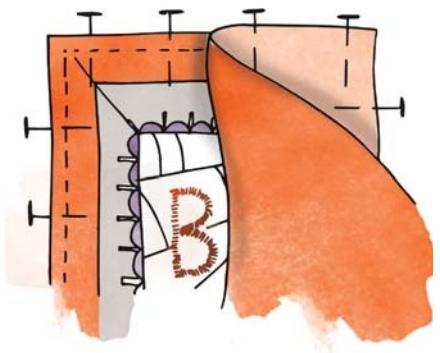


For tips on embroidery with metallic thread, see "15 Top Tips" on page 16.

A



B



- Stitch the diagonal strip ends with right sides together to form mitered corners; trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{2}$ " (A). Press open the seams.
- Center the remaining four strips over the stitched strips with right sides together. Trim the strip ends on a 45° angle, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowances. Stitch the strip outer edges, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " free at each end. Stitch the strip corners independently on the diagonal; press open the seams. Turn the flange to the right side; press.
- Pin the back flange to the front flange along the raw edges with right sides together.
- Pin the corduroy backing square to the pillow top with right sides together and the flange folded into the middle (B). Stitch, leaving an opening for turning that's large enough to fit the pillow form.
- Turn the pillow right side out and insert the form, adding fiberfill to the corners and edges if needed.
- Hand stitch the opening closed. E

DESIGN

Boo embroidery design, sandyjenkins.com

SOURCE

Shop Sew It All carries Pilot FriXion heat-erasable pens: shopsewitall.com

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Hearts & Blooms



LIESL GIBSON OF LIESL + CO.

Celebrated author and designer Liesl Gibson brings her classic style to Sew News with two dynamic patterns: the Maritime Knit Top, featuring a chic boatneck neckline, and the Gallery Tunic + Dress, with plenty of sophisticated design details and design options. Or grab the Gallery Tunic Pattern + Kit and make a tunic in dreamy cotton lawn fabric designed by Liesl for Robert Kaufman. Need a refresher? Get back to garment-sewing basics with two instructional videos hosted by Liesl. Find the patterns, kit and videos at ShopSewItAll.com.



Maritime Knit Top



Gallery Tunic



Gallery Tunic Kit





UNIQUE TECHNIQUE: *Thread Painting*

BY ERIC DREXLER,
Courtesy of Sulky

Let your creativity go wild with thread painting. This free-motion stitching technique is easy to learn and creates one-of-a-kind designs. Learn professional tips and tricks for getting started.



THREAD PAINTING BASICS

Thread painting is created by freely moving tightly hooped fabric under a machine needle to produce a design. For this technique, the machine feed dogs are lowered.

Unlike computerized embroidery, which is a digital reproduction, anyone can thread paint to embellish or create works of art using a manual, free-motion process on any basic sewing machine with a straight and zigzag stitch

feature. Now quite popular among quilters and fabric artists, the process creates a unique design that can never be exactly reproduced.

After learning a few free-motion fundamentals, a sewist can quickly move on to many other techniques, such as stippling, meandering, print embellishment, raw-edge appliquéd, custom monograms, thread sketching, Zentangle quilting and 3D designs. Or stitch small thread painting designs to complement purchased digitized designs for added dimension, such as grass or clouds added to a beach scene.

HISTORY

An exact conception date for thread painting isn't known, but instructions and illustrations were provided in a 1911 Singer manual entitled *Art Embroidery*, describing art embroidery on a straight-stitch treadle machine. With the introduction and popularity of sewing machines featuring a zigzag stitch in the 1960s and 1970s, many books on art embroidery were written by well-known textile artists of the period, such as Lucille Graham, Verna Holt, Lois Ericson, Robbie Fanning, Janet Stocker and Bambi Stalder.

Free-motion embroidery really didn't enter mainstream America until industry innovator and icon Joyce Drexler came on the scene in the early 1980s. Joyce is widely regarded by her peers as being the driving force behind the rise in popularity of all things free-motion, including thread painting, which she coined in 1980 and used for the title of her first book in 1981. Joyce's innovative techniques made it fast, fun and easy for anyone,

especially non-artists, to learn and enjoy thread painting, monogramming, appliquéd, cutwork, lace making and many more techniques. Joyce was a pioneer who was significantly responsible for the major shift in focus of the home sewing industry from sewing for money savings to sewing as a creative and enjoyable pastime. As an ever-increasing number of people learned and loved Joyce's techniques, more sewing machine companies introduced stand-alone embroidery machines in the early 1990s.

MACHINE EMBROIDERY VS. THREAD PAINTING

Both machine embroidery and thread painting fill a design outline with thread. Smaller free-motion thread painting designs can be created directly on hooped fabric and stabilizer without a design outline. Larger designs are usually transferred onto stabilizer, stitched, cut out and then used as an appliquéd.

Digitized designs are created to embroider the same exact design multiple times, while thread painting creates one-of-a-kind designs each time, whether or not the same design is being used. In addition, thread painting doesn't have a limitation on the design size.

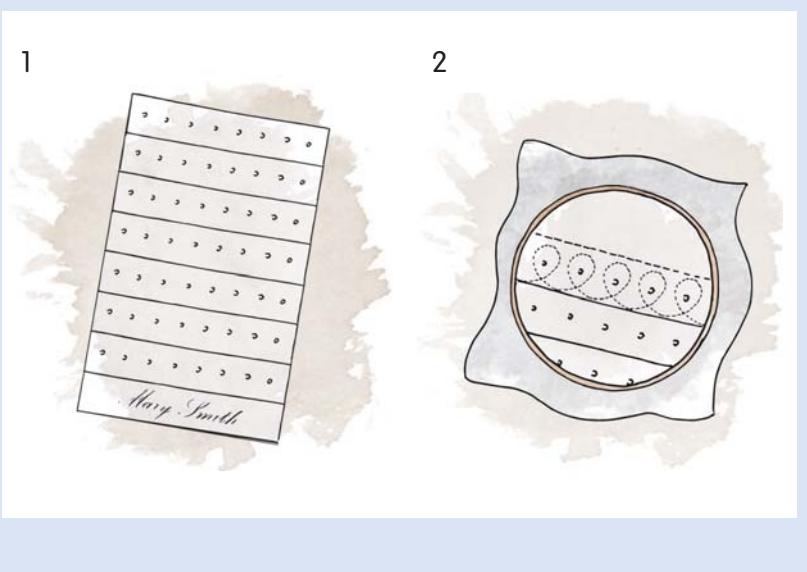
EQUIPMENT

Select a sewing or embroidery machine with an electronic foot control to maintain a slow, steady stitching speed. Sit at a comfortable height at the machine with your nose in line with the needle, making sure your arms aren't elevated. If available, use

THREAD PAINTING PRACTICE

Practice basic thread-painting techniques on stabilizer.

- Prepare the machine for free-motion embroidery following the steps on page 39.
- Draw horizontal lines spaced 1" apart on a 10" square of cut-away stabilizer. Mark a dot $\frac{3}{8}$ " above each line, spaced $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart. Sign your first name at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall on the last line (1).
- Position a 10" square of tear-away stabilizer beneath the cut-away stabilizer for added stability.
- Center the stabilizer squares within the outer embroidery hoop. Place the inner hoop over the outer hoop, pressing down with firm even pressure.
- Place the hoop under the machine needle.
- Working right to left, begin stitching on the first horizontal line and move upward around the first dot, circling it counterclockwise and ending on the horizontal line. Repeat to stitch the wave-pattern stitching line around the dots until the end of the horizontal line, maintaining the same distance from each dot when circling it (2).
- Continue stitching the lines and dots to practice, alternating stitching left to right and right to left.
- Continue practicing by stitching your signed name.



or purchase a machine bed extension to anchor your hands, allowing just your fingers to move during stitching without any tension on your arms. Begin stitching at a slow to medium speed, increasing the speed as you become more confident and your accuracy improves. Most importantly, relax and enjoy the process.

Avoid inexpensive needles, threads, stabilizer, fabrics or hoops. Quality products make a huge difference in the process and finished project.

FIXING MISTAKES

Thread painting is very forgiving. The design pattern is transferred onto stabilizer that is removed after stitching, so going outside the line is fine because it will be cut away when appliquéd. If the stitches aren't too dense, simply stitch back over the mistake to fix it with more thread or cover the mistake with the next thread color.

Don't pile up too many stitches in one area. The buildup looks unpleasant and causes thread breakage. It's the same as having an overly digitized design that causes the machine to jump and make noise if there are too many stitch layers.

Proper tension is achieved when both the upper and lower threads meet as a knot in the middle of the stabilizer or slightly pulled to the wrong side. If the bobbin thread is being pulled by the upper thread too much, slightly reduce the upper tension and test-stitch again. If the upper thread is still pulled too far to the wrong side, decrease the bobbin case tension.



Coneflower Design

Create a flower to take your thread-painting skill set to the next level.

MATERIALS

- Stabilizer: lightweight cut-away & tear-away
- Double-sided fusible web
- Thread: 40-wt. rayon & matching 60-wt. polyester or bobbin
- Size 80/12 metallic or topstitch needle
- Spring-type free-motion presser foot
- Water-soluble or heat-removable fabric pen (See "Sources.")
- 8"-diameter hardwood hand embroidery hoop

- Soldering iron or wood-burning tool

- Coneflower template (page 41)

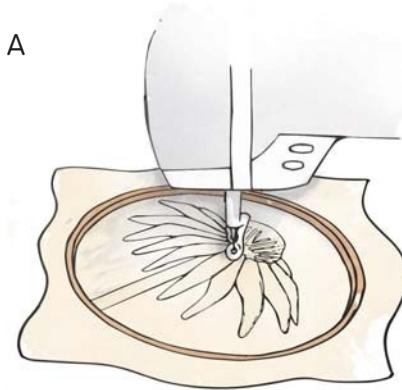
PREPARE

- Lower the feed dogs and install the free-motion presser foot and an 80/12 metallic or topstitch needle onto the machine.
- Thread the needle with 40-wt. rayon thread and the bobbin with matching 60-wt. polyester or bobbin thread. Select a straight stitch and the center needle position.
- If available, set the needle stop up/down feature to the down position.
- Lower the machine speed to the lowest setting.

- Copy or trace the cone flower template from page 41. Using a removable fabric marker, trace the design onto a 10" square of cut-away stabilizer. Position a 10" square of tear-away stabilizer beneath the cut-away stabilizer. Hoop both stabilizer layers in the embroidery hoop, centering the design.

EMBROIDER

- Place the hoop under the machine needle, aligning it outside the design area. Using the hand wheel, pull up the bobbin thread to the stabilizer right side.
- Place your hands on the sides of the hoop. Position the stamen-shadow areas so they line up with the machine long edge.



- Lower the presser foot. To tie on, hold both thread tails. Take one stitch forward, one backward, and then one forward to secure the threads. Trim the thread tails close to the fabric surface.
- Straight stitch around each stamen-shadow perimeter at least once (**A**). Fill in using a smooth side-to-side motion. Fill in one section at a time without lingering too long in one spot.
- Change the upper and lower thread color as desired.
- Stitch around the flower-stamen perimeter. Stitch individual horizontal lines spaced approximately $1/8"$ apart inside the stamen to use as a guide. Work left to right and then right to left to create the horizontal stitching lines. Fill in the flower, using the horizontal lines as guidelines (**B**).
- Repeat to stitch the flower petals and stem.
- Change the upper thread color as desired. Working horizontally, stitch three to four lines over each flower petal.
- Change the upper and lower thread color. Stitch around each petal perimeter two or three times to highlight and define (**C**).
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop.

CONEFLOWER TEMPLATE



Tip

To obtain consistent stitches per inch, make sure the fabric is moving at all times while the machine is running. Move the fabric slowly enough for consistent stitching, but fast enough to prevent excess thread buildup.

- Adhere a 10" square of fusible web to the design wrong side following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Carefully cut out the design, leaving $1/16"$ around the entire perimeter.
- Use a soldering iron to melt the remaining stabilizer from the design perimeter, making sure to move briskly to avoid a burned edge.
- Fuse the flower onto the finished project fabric. Free-motion stitch around

the design perimeter to secure, changing thread colors to match the different flower colors (D).

SOURCES

Shop Sew it All carries Pilot FriXion heat-removable fabric pens: shopsewitall.com.

Sulky carries 40-wt. Rayon thread, 60-wt. PolyLite thread, KK 2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive, Soft 'n Sheer Cut-Away stabilizer and Tear-Easy Tear-Away stabilizer: sulky.com.

D



Greet your
Halloween guests
with a so-cute-
it's-scary banner.
Create one today
using simple log
cabin piecing,
a Día de los
Muertos-inspired
design collection
and sweet
themed fabrics.



Halloween Scene

BY AMANDA
CARESTIO





Download the Ghost Duo embroidery design from cmemag.com/freebies until Oct. 31, 2016. Find the design after the expiration, and the rest of the collection, at shopsewitall.com.

Get the kit!

Find the Halloween Scene kit, which includes all of the fabric you need to make the wall hanging plus the entire Halloween Scene design collection at shopsewitall.com.

MATERIALS

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of main print fabric (for backing and binding)
(See "Sources.")
- 4 fat quarters of coordinating prints (for quilt top)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of solid pink fabric
- 15"x20" rectangle of fusible batting (See "Sources.")
- Removable fabric marker
- Vellum or other semi-transparent paper
- Tear-away stabilizer
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Rotary cutter & mat
- Thread: all-purpose, black bobbin & embroidery
- Hand sewing needle
- Black embroidery floss
- Short dowel rod, approximately 12" long (optional)
- Halloween-themed embroidery & border designs (approximately 2" square & 2"x6"; see "Designs.")

CUT

- From the main print fabric, cut one 16"x24" rectangle for the backing.
- From the fat quarters and the main print fabric, cut two or three 2"-wide strips each. The main print fabric strips will be used for the log cabin piecing on the quilt front and the binding.

EMBROIDER

- Download the Ghost Duo embroidery design from cmemag.com/freebies until Oct. 31, 2016. Purchase the design at shopsewitall.com after the expiration date. Load the design onto the machine.
- On a flat work surface, spray the tear-away stabilizer with temporary adhesive and place it on the wrong side of the solid pink fabric, smoothing any wrinkles.
- Hoop the fabric and stabilizer. Position the first design in the hoop so that you can stitch several designs onto the solid pink fabric piece, leaving at least a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " border around each of the single-motif designs. Stitch the first design.
- Load the second design onto the machine and repeat, stitching each of the small designs and re-hooping the fabric as needed.
- On the last expanse of solid pink fabric, stitch two border designs in a row.
- Remove the hoop from the machine and tear away the stabilizer from each design perimeter.

CONSTRUCT

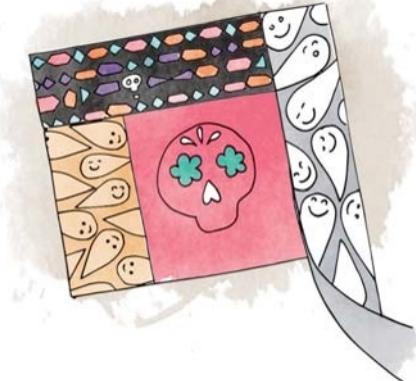
Use $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances unless otherwise noted. Press open all seams.

- From the vellum or transparent paper, cut one 4" square and one 4"x12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle, taping the paper together if necessary.





A



- Draw a line through the vertical and horizontal center of the 4" vellum square. Center the square over one stitched design, pin in place or trace and cut around the design. Repeat for the remaining single-motif designs.

- Draw a line through the vertical and horizontal center of the vellum rectangle. Center the rectangle over the stitched border designs, pin in place or trace and cut around the design.
- Construct the small log cabin blocks first. Starting at the left edge and working clockwise around the square, pin and stitch the 2" strips to each edge of the single motif squares **(A)**.
- With a ruler and rotary cutter, trim the excess and trim the edges as you complete each block **(B)**.
- Piece the four blocks together.
- At the short edge of the stitched border rectangle, pin and stitch 2" strips to each edge. Then pin and stitch a 2" strip to the lower edge.
- Trim the pieced border strip to match the width of the pieced blocks above. Pin and stitch the border strip to the pieced block lower edge.

FINISH

- Lay the quilt top right side up and centered over the fusible batting. Place both over the quilt backing wrong side **(C)**.
- Fuse the layers together following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Using three strands of black embroidery floss, sew a running

stitch around each embroidered block and rectangle.

- From the remaining main print fabric strips, piece together enough strips to create 70" of binding.
- Press the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and pin it to the quilt top, aligning the raw edges and turning the beginning end to the wrong side. Miter the corners as you reach them.
- Stitch the binding in place, tucking the end into the folded beginning.
- Wrap the binding around the quilt edge toward the back and slipstitch in place.
- Find a remaining 2"x8" strip. Press the strip in half lengthwise with right sides together; stitch the long raw edge. Turn the strip right side out and press, centering the seam on the back.
- Cut the strip in half, and then fold each strip in half widthwise. Fold the raw ends $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side. Stitch the hanging loops in place on the quilt back with each loop $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from each quilt side.
- Thread the dowel rod through the loops. 

DESIGNS

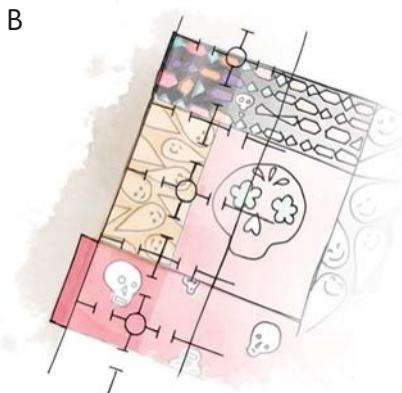
Skull, black cat, flowers, ghosts and tombstone border: CME, Halloween Scene Embroidery Collection: shopsewittall.com.

SOURCES

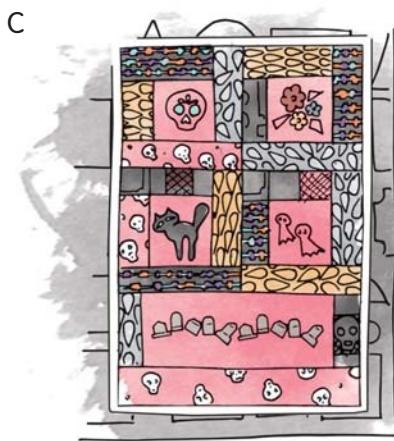
Cotton + Steel provided the featured Boo! fabrics: cottonandsteelfabrics.com.

Shop Sew It All carries fusible batting and the Halloween Scene kit: shopsewittall.com.

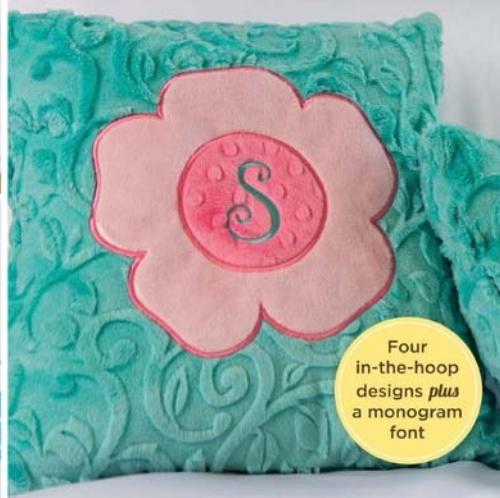
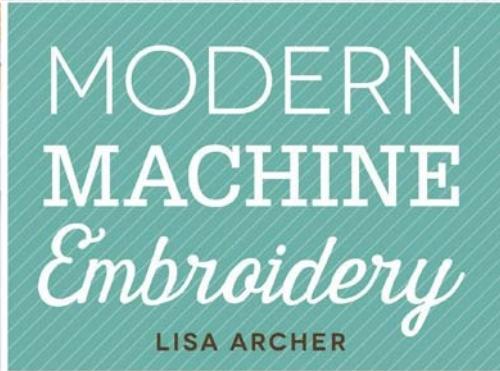
B



C



Discover the Magic of "In-The-Hoop" Embroidery



Go from plain to personalized with embroidery from well-known Pickle Pie designer, Lisa Archer! Learn how to create fashionable appliques and custom monograms, as well as amazing in-the-hoop embroidery projects that take full advantage of today's embroidery machine capabilities. *Modern Machine Embroidery* also includes a DVD of 25 must-have embroidery designs, including three in-the-hoop projects and a complete alphabet.

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ShopFonsandPorter.com

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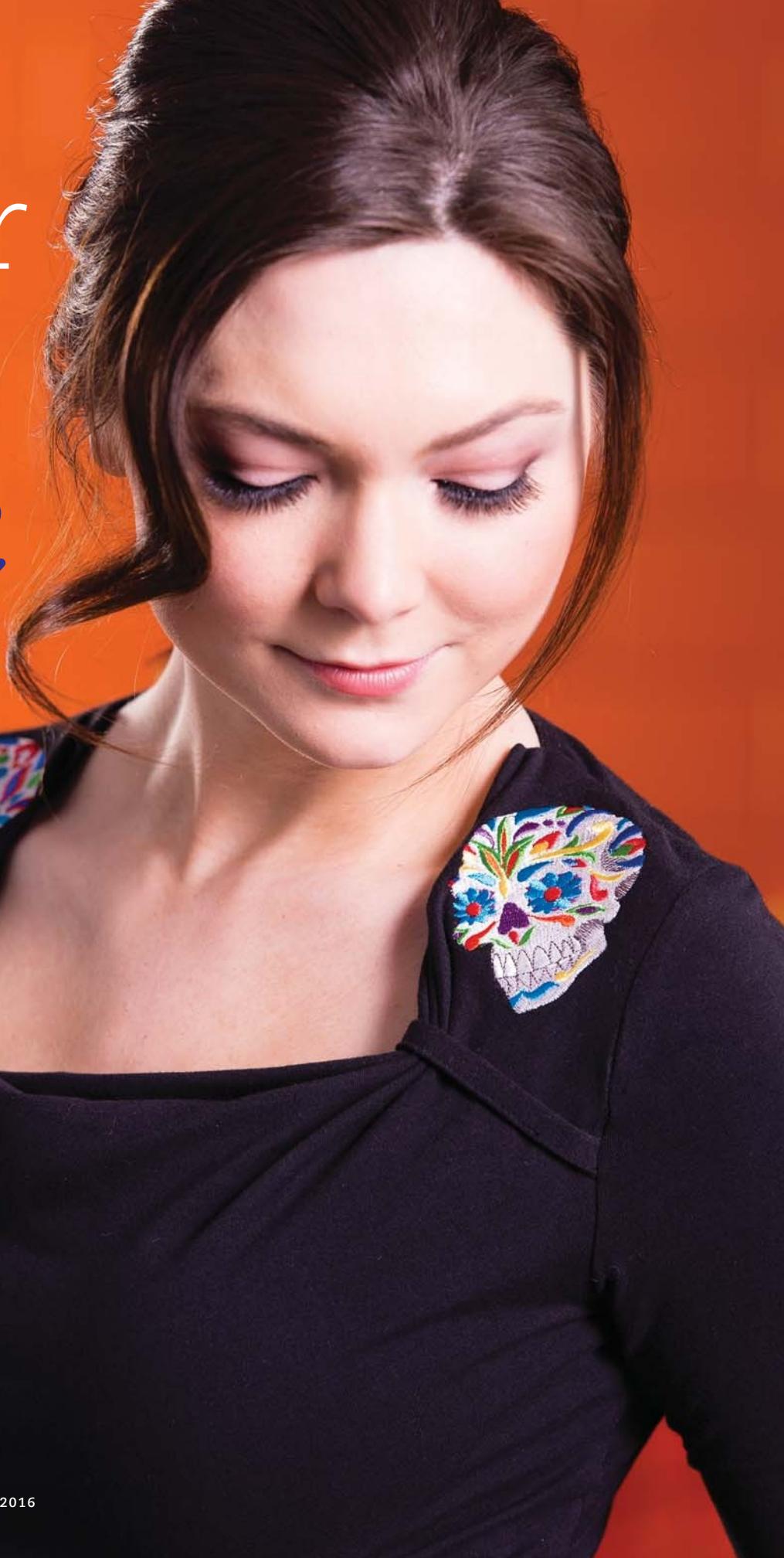
Fons&Porter 



Sugar Skull *Chic*

BY KATRINA WALKER

Add fun Day of the Dead sugar skull embroidery designs to a basic knit top for a festive look.



MATERIALS

- Knit portrait neckline top pattern (such as Burda Style 10/2014 #110)
- Stretch jersey knit fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- Thread: all-purpose & embroidery
- Needles: ballpoint & embroidery
- Lightweight cut-away stabilizer
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Tailor's chalk
- Pinking shears
- Two sugar skull designs (approximately 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "; see "Designs.")

Note: Select a top that has a reasonable amount of shoulder space. The featured pattern has a front self-facing that conceals the embroidery stabilizer and adjustable neckline-gathering loops to allow for design placement flexibility.

PREPARE

- Cut out the top front, back and straps. The featured top straps were lengthened to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the sleeves were shortened to a three-quarter-length sleeve.
- Fold the front at the self-facing along the designated shoulder lines with wrong sides together; pin. Mark the shoulder and armseye seam allowance using tailor's chalk.
- Print out each sugar skull template.
- Place the left-facing skull template over the right shoulder. Position the



HISTORY

Many of us are familiar with the eerily cheerful and colorfully decorated sugar skulls associated with the holiday Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Less familiar are the history and traditions that are part of this unique celebration. A celebration in honor of the dead may seem like a morbid occasion, but Día de los Muertos is actually a celebration of life.

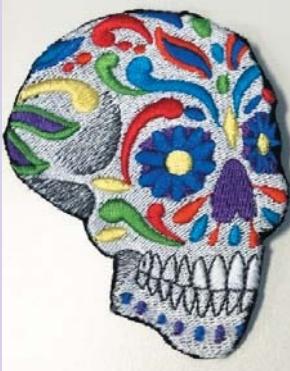
Although many countries have celebrations around the time of All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day in November, the symbols of Día de los Muertos, including elaborately decorated sugar skulls, originated in central and southern Mexico. The Día de los Muertos holiday contains elements of both indigenous and Spanish Catholic religious beliefs and practices, combining them into a uniquely festive occasion. It's believed that the dead don't like us to be sad, so their visit is a time for love and laughter, sharing funny and endearing stories about those who have passed on and bringing them up to date with what is happening in the lives of their loved ones.

Día de los Muertos is actually a two-day event, starting at midnight on October 31, when it's believed that the gates of heaven open to allow the souls of the Angelitos, young angels, to visit those who knew and loved them in life. On November 2, the adult angels have their turn. Families build elaborate "offerndas," altars with offerings such as colorful wild marigolds and other local flowers and the loved ones' favorite foods and drinks to nourish them when they arrive from their long journey. Graves are cleaned and families often gather in the graveyard to spend time with their loved ones, both past and present.

Sugar skulls originate from the arrival of Catholic missionaries in Mexico. Sugar was an inexpensive and plentiful material, and the Mexican people learned from European missionaries how to sculpt it into fanciful shapes. These sweet offerings became the most famous symbol of the holiday, which decorate offerndas and graves to honor the memory of the departed. Although they are made mostly from edible materials, the beautifully decorated skulls are meant purely for decoration.



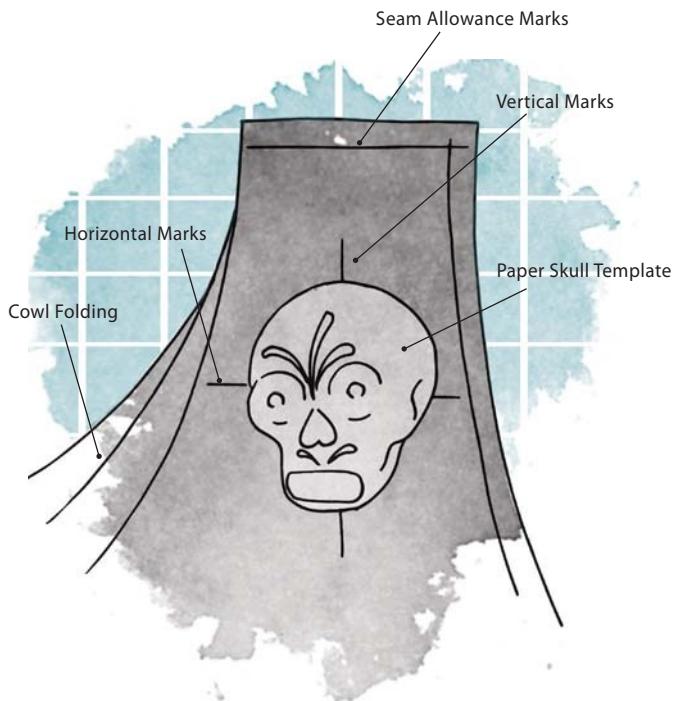
APPLIQUÉ OPTION



Learn how to create an appliquéd to easily add embroidery to a finished top without having to embroider directly onto the top fabric.

- Embroider the designs onto the fashion fabric or a lightweight fabric, such as organza, that matches the fashion-fabric color.
- Apply seam sealant to the design perimeter wrong side. Carefully cut out the design close to the design perimeter using appliquéd scissors.
- Construct the top following the pattern guidesheet. Handstitch the design onto the finished garment at the desired placement.

A



skull at an angle and align the skull head and jaw near the shoulder and armscye seamline markings. Mark the template horizontal and vertical centerlines onto the top (A).

- Repeat to mark the right-facing skull template onto the left shoulder.
- Unfold the top.

EMBROIDER

- Load the skull designs onto the machine.
- Hoop two layers of lightweight cut-away stabilizer. Spray temporary adhesive over the stabilizer. Position the top front over the stabilizer, centering the left-shoulder horizontal and vertical centerlines within the hoop; finger-press to secure.
- Embroider the left-facing design, changing thread colors as needed.
- Remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Cut away the excess stabilizer from the design perimeter using pinking shears.

- Repeat to embroider the right-facing skull onto the left shoulder.
- Construct the top according to the pattern guidesheet. 

RESOURCE

Villalba, A. (2016, February 16). History of Day of the Dead & the Mexican Sugar Skull Tradition. Retrieved from mexicansugarskull.com.

DESIGNS

Sugar skulls: Urban Threads, Sweet Skull Uno (UT2731), Sweet Skull Tres (UT2733); urbanthreads.com

SOURCES

Burda Style provided the top pattern 10/2014 #110; burdastyle.com.

SVP Worldwide provided the Pfaff Creative Sensation Pro machine: svpworldwide.com.



Try different design placements on garments, such as at an angle along the upper hip on a skirt. Most sugar skull embroidery designs are dense, so place the designs where the stiffness doesn't interfere with the garment drape.



Learn how
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any project
with machine
embroidery!



Absolute Beginner Machine Embroidery with Sara Gallegos

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Learn easy techniques to make your projects extraordinary!



Host Sara Gallegos is a sewing and quilting educator and served as host of *Behind the Seams* and *My First Quilt*. She's a regular contributor to *Sew News*, *Creative machine Embroidery* and *Quilter's Newsletter* magazines.

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Q&A

by Pamela Cox



The featured *La Serenata* quilt designed by Ann Horton first appeared in Quilters Newsletter Feb/March 2014: quiltersnewsletter.com.

Dear Pamela,

What are some intermediate techniques for combining embroidery designs onto quilts?

Signed,
Curious Quilter

DEAR CURIOUS QUILTER,
Quilting and machine embroidery are quite lovely together. Each technique complements the other, inspiring the weaker skill set to improve to the next level. Quilting and machine embroidery are typically only used together in traditional quilt designs; however, both skills are well suited for many other applications, such as clothing, throw pillows, tote bags, table linens or wall hangings.

The simplest way to combine the two techniques is to embroider a design on fabric, and then use the embroidered fabric as a block in a project. For a more advanced application, add other designs within the same collection to create additional blocks in different sizes or colors to combine into a larger piece with more dimension **(A)**.

For an embroidery beginner, keep the design placement simple and incorporate a more technical patchwork design **(B)**. For a quilting beginner, experiment with design placement to add more interest on a quilt **(C)**.

Numerous quilt block collections are available for purchase online. Look for collections that offer accent designs or smaller segments that complement a full-block design. Working with a variety of design sizes and partial block designs makes it easier to add your own creative layouts to a project. Often a collection also includes PDF instructions that explain how to construct the featured quilt with the designs.

QUILTING

Crazy-quilt designs are a fun way to construct and embellish a block in one step. Purchase digitized crazy-quilt designs or create your own using embroidery software. Determine the shapes that will fill the desired-size block **(D)**.

The first step secures fabric A to the stabilizer. In the second step, place fabric B along the fabric A lower edge with right sides together, and then stitch a seam. Fold fabric B to the right side, then pin to secure. In the third step, a decorative stitch is stitched over the first seamline. Each step is repeated to create one full block. After completion,

Tip

Experiment with traditional quilting by dropping the machine feed dogs and free-motion quilting a project.

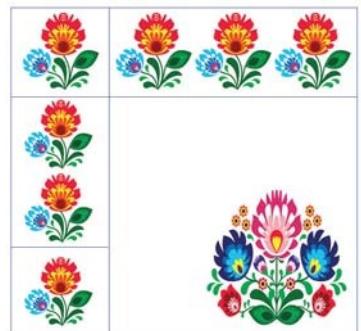
A



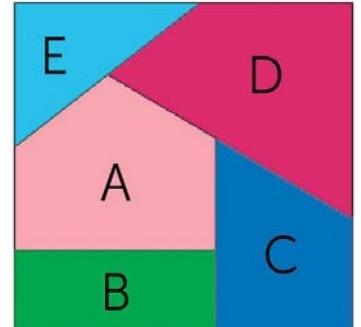
B



C



D





To create an original block, use embroidery software to duplicate a desired design four times. Rotate each design 45°, and then align the design edges to create one large design (**E**).

Some of the more advanced embroidery software has the ability to easily add quilting stitches around any existing embroidery. Import a design into the software's quilting application to place

stippling stitches around the design perimeter (**F**). Embroider the design onto the quilt-top fabric. Hoop the backing fabric and layer the batting and the embroidered fabric right side up over the hooped fabric; secure using one of the previous methods. Make sure the embroidered fabric design is centered within the hoop. If available, use the exact positioning feature for perfect alignment. Embroider the stippling design. Remove

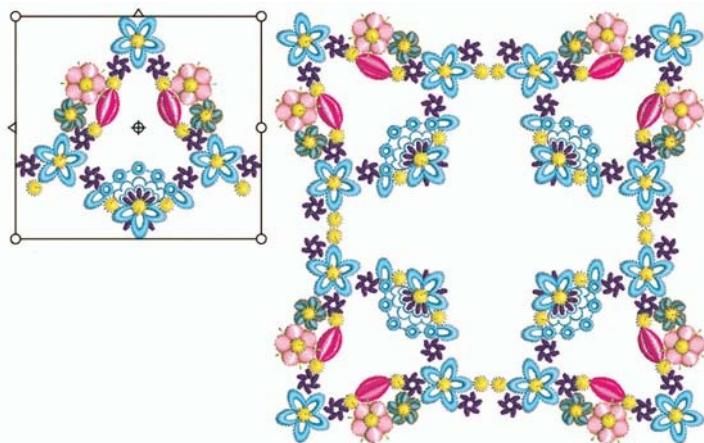
the hoop from the machine, and trim the block to the desired size.

Most embroidery machines offer a large variety of decorative stitches, including the ability to stitch one at a time. Try tacking a completed project by machine or randomly place a candle-wicking stitch throughout the quilt as a tying method. 

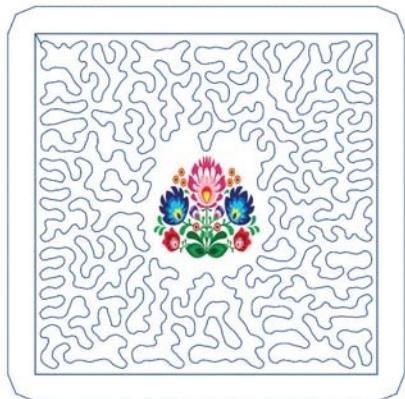
DESIGN

Floral design (E): Graceful Embroidery, Sweet Innocence; gracefulembroidery.com

E



F



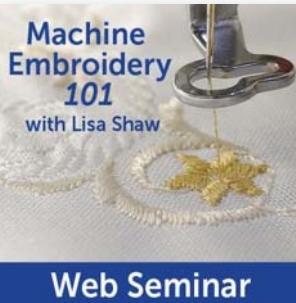
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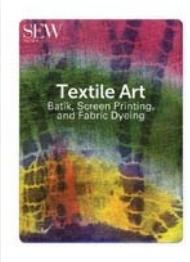
**MARITIME KNIT TOP
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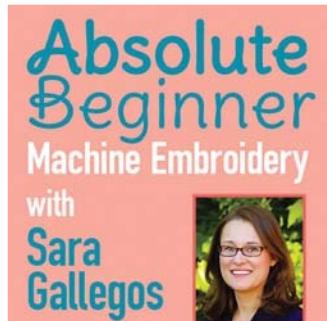
what's in *Store*

Find more ways to stay inspired and connected at cmemag.com.

learn it

If you're new to machine embroidery, let Sara Gallegos explain the basics of using an embroidery machine in a fun-to-watch

video series. Watch all 26 videos from the Absolute Beginner Machine Embroidery series and walk away with the confidence needed to embroider beautiful garments, quilts and crafts, all on your own. Find the entire series at shopsewitall.com.



shop it

For more howling fun, check out the delightfully scary Halloween Softies Kit from Heidi Boyd. The kit includes supplies to make a werewolf and a bat with semi-opposable limbs and plenty of room for customizing.

Purchase the kit and a helpful how-to video at shopsewitall.com.



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win it

Enter to win a Heidi Boyd Tea Towel kit and her book *Fairy Tale Sewing: 20 Whimsical Toys, Dolls & Softies* on the CME blog Oct. 4, 2016!



embroider it

Download this month's free embroidery design. This adorably spooky duo makes a great addition to Halloween treat bags, hand towels and other festive projects. Find the entire collection at shopsewitall.com.



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sweepstakes
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To commemorate this occasion, we hosted a Mystery Sew-Along, complete with free designs to keep you inspired all year long. Thank you to all who participated. If you registered for our *Creative Machine Embroidery* 15 Years Sweepstakes, you were eligible to win a prize package of sewing and embroidery products valued at \$15,000! The winner has been chosen and will be revealed in the Nov/Dec *CME*, along with photos of her finished project.

- Each Sew-Along installment is on the *Creative Machine Embroidery* blog at cmemag.com/blogs/cme. The Sew-Along concluded on June 1, so now you can view the finished project! Each blog post is still available to guide you through the project, and the full instructions and pattern will appear in the Nov/Dec '16 *CME*.
- With each blog post you'll find a free design download that coordinates with the project—there are 6 designs in all!

- If you made our mystery project, send a photo of your creation to info@cmemag.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.
- The sweepstakes winner will be featured in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue of *Creative Machine Embroidery*.

plus

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Alliance Single-needle free-arm embroidery machine, MSRP \$6,995 and Embroidery Machine Stand with adjustable height feature: MSRP \$1,000; babyllock.com



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Crane Lamp with Clamp and 13W Craft Space Organizer: MSRP \$189; ottlite.com



Stabilizer & embroidery thread bundle: MSRP \$500; sulky.com

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Embroidery & Digitizing Software, Creative Drawings 6 Full Package: MSRP \$799; creative-drawings.com



Lunch Box Quilts.

An assortment of embroidery designs and thread kits, MSRP \$500; lunchboxquilts.com



Reliable Corporation: Senza 200DS Dual Ironing System: MSRP \$299 and 9000C LED Task Light: MSRP \$79; reliablecorporation.com



Arrow Sewing Cabinets sewing chair: MSRP \$220.99

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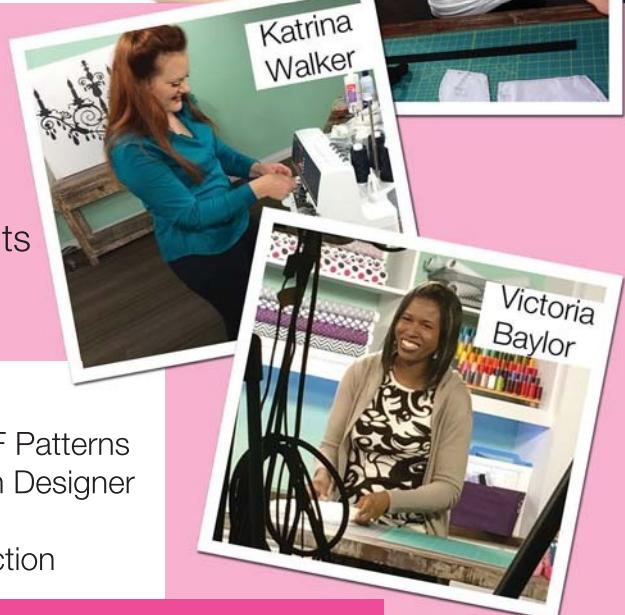
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